

**Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH)
Working Group Meeting
December 16-17, 2015**

8:30 am – 5:00 pm each day

Anchorage Marriott Downtown Juneau/Haines Room
820 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

DAY 1 – WACH Working Group, December 16

8:30 Call to Order

Invocation

WACH Working Group Roll Call / Establish Quorum

Introduction of Working Group members

Approval of Agenda – Preview Meeting Binder

New Member & Alternate appointments

Thank you's

8:50 Guest Elder – Mr. Roland Booth, Noatak

9:40 BREAK

10:00 Caribou Roundtable

- Small group discussions by region (60 minutes)
- Full Working Group open discussion – What have Working Group members noticed about caribou availability, harvest, and health in 2015? Other observations related to the herd or their habitat? (45 minutes)

11:45 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 Noorvik School Presentation (40 minutes)

1:40 Herd Summary Information

1:40 Population Status – Lincoln Parrett and Brandon Saito, Alaska
Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Wildlife
Conservation (50 min)

2:30 Monitoring Caribou Movements and Distribution – Kyle Joly,
National Park Service (20 min)

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WACH Working Group Meeting – Agenda (continued)

2:50 Technical Committee recommendation on herd status and management level, per the 2011 Cooperative Management Plan (Table 1) (20 min)

Note that the morning of Day 2 provides time for Working Group discussion of herd status and management level.

The 2011 Cooperative Management Plan (p. 17) states that each year, the Working Group “will review the Technical Committee’s recommendations [on herd management], consider traditional ecological knowledge and knowledge of all users, and seek consensus on the appropriate management strategy to recommend” for the herd (see Management Levels in Table 1 and Appendix 2 of the Plan).

3:10 Working Group Photo / BREAK

3:30 Summary of State & Federal Hunting Regulations and Proposals

The 2011 Cooperative Management Plan (p. 17) states the Working Group will develop recommendations for regulatory changes following the normal state and federal board processes involving advisory committees, regional advisory councils, and public review before board actions.

Comparison of Current State and Federal Regulations (20 min)

State hunting regulations, *Brandon Saito and Lincoln Parrett, ADF&G*
Federal subsistence hunting regulations, *Chris McKee, FWS*

Proposals made to Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) (20 min)

Caribou related proposals, *Chris McKee, FWS*
FSB Meeting: April 11-15, 2016

Proposals at Statewide Board of Game Meeting, March 2016 (15 min)

Caribou related proposals, *Tony Gorn, ADF&G*
Comment deadline: March 4, 2016

Call for Board of Game Proposals, Arctic & Western Regions, 2017 (5 min)

Meeting information, *Tony Gorn, ADF&G*
Proposal deadline: April 29, 2016

4:30 Working Group Discussion – Regulations, Proposals, Recommendations

5:00 ADJOURN DAY 1

WACH Working Group Meeting – Agenda (continued)

Day 2 – WACH Working Group, December 17

8:30 Call to Order / Announcements

8:40 Community Harvest Assessments: Kotzebue, Shishmaref, Point Hope, Barrow, Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut - Nikki Braem, ADF&G, Subsistence Division (30 minutes)

9:10 Caribou Herd Management Level in the Future: WACH Cooperative Management Plan (2011) – Table 1

Working Group discussion of the potential to enter the “Preservative” Management Level, if the herd size continues to decline in the future. Discussion of potential effects on harvest, how to prepare, and how to communicate to the public.

10:15 BREAK

10:30 Continue Working Group Discussion of Herd Management Level

11:45 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 Working Group Committee Reports

1:00 **Executive Committee** (10 min)

1:10 **Resource Development Committee** (10 min)

1:20 **Technical Committee** – (10 min – anything additional from Dec. 15 TC meeting)

1:30 **Communication Committee** – *Caribou Trails*, website, other outreach efforts related to Cooperative Management Plan and caribou management issues – Kari Rasmussen, ADF&G (15 min)

1:45 Management Agency Reports regarding WAH-related topics

1:45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Steve Machida

2:00 Bureau of Land Management – Alan Bittner

2:15 National Park Service – Greg Dudgeon

2:30 US Fish and Wildlife Service – Susan Georgette

2:45 BREAK

WACH Working Group Meeting – Agenda (continued)

3:05 Business Meeting

Approval of 2014 WG Meeting Summary

Election of Vice-Chair for 2016-2018 term

Committee Membership – Review & reconfirm

WG guidelines on membership vacancies – What process? Who to contact?

Bylaws change – Specify quorum for Executive Committee meetings

New Business (Action Items)

Assignments

Which WG Members want to receive flash drive with all meeting materials?

Next Meeting – Proposed December 14-15, 2016, Anchorage

4:40 Closing Comments – Working Group members

5:00 ADJOURN